

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-15 AID-05 IO-13 ACDA-10 TRSE-00 /097 W
-----121321Z 055187 /43

R 121209Z MAY 77
FM AMEMBASSY LONDON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3802
AMEMBASSY ANKARA
AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 LONDON 07831

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR MARR GR US TU CY
SUBJECT: TEXT, QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION BETWEEN
PRESIDENT CARTER AND PRIME MINISTER DEMIREL
OF TURKEY

REF: TELCON MAY 11

AS REQUESTED, TEXT OF SUBJECT SESSION FOLLOWS:

BEGIN TEXT

OFFICE OF THE WHITE HOUSE PRESS SECRETARY
(LONDON, ENGLAND)

THE WHITE HOUSE

INFORMAL QUESTION AND ANSWER
SESSION OF THE PRESIDENT AND
PRIME MINISTER SULLYMAN DEMIREL OF TURKEY

9:25 A.M. LDT
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PRIME MINISTER DEMIREL: I HAVE VISITED WITH THE
PRESIDENT AND WE HAVE DISCUSSED OUR BILATERAL RELATIONS.
I HAVE EXPRESSED MY DEEP CONCERN TO THE PRESIDENT. IT
WAS A VERY USEFUL MEETING.

THANK YOU.

THE PRESIDENT: I HAVE OUTLINED TO THE PRIME MINISTER HOW IMPORTANT THE RELATIONSHIPS WITH TURKEY HAVE ALWAYS BEEN TO US, HOW IN TIMES OF CRISIS WE HAVE ALWAYS BEEN STAUNCH FRIENDS OF ONE ANOTHER. THE ALLIANCE WITH TURKEY IS CRUCIAL TO THE SECURITY OF EUROPE AND TO OUR OWN NATIONAL FUTURE.

WE ARE VERY PROUD OF THE PROGRESS THAT IS BEING MADE IN PROVIDING A HIGHER AUTHORITY FOR MILITARY SALES TO TURKEY.

WE JUST RECOMMENDED TO THE CONGRESS THAT THIS BE INCREASED FROM 125 MILLION DOLLARS TO 175 MILLION DOLLARS. I HAVE EVERY EXPECTATION THAT CONGRESS WILL ACT QUICKLY TO INCREASE THIS DEMONSTRATION OF MUTUAL FRIENDSHIP BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES.

WE FACE THE FUTURE WITH CONFIDENCE THAT THE OTHER DIFFERENCES CAN BE IRONED OUT. MY MEETING THIS MORNING HAS BEEN OF GREAT BENEFIT TO ME WHEN THE POSITION OF TURKEY WAS EXPLAINED VERY FORCIBLY BY THE PRIME MINISTER. SO WE HAVE MADE GREAT PROGRESS. WE HAVE A LONG WAY TO GO IN THE FUTURE.

BUT OUR HISTORICAL FRIENDSHIP WITH TURKEY CANNOT BE DAMAGED BECAUSE (INAUDIBLE).

QUESTION: DID YOU DISCUSS THE CYPRUS PROBLEM?
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THE PRESIDENT: VERY BRIEFLY. I THINK THERE IS COMMON HOPE THAT THE CYPRUS QUESTION CAN BE RESOLVED. OBVIOUSLY, THIS IS A DECISION TO BE MADE BY THE GREEK AND TURKISH CYPRIOTS; OBVIOUSLY, THE PRIME MINISTER HAS A GREAT VOICE AND INFLUENCE THERE.

WE HAVE HOPES WITH THE POSITION (INAUDIBLE) -- HOPE FOR A UNITED NATION ON CYPRUS AND FOR PEACE AMONG THE CYPRIOTS.

QUESTION: MR. PRESIDENT, DO YOU SEE THE PROBLEM OF AMERICAN BASES BEING SOLVED?

THE PRESIDENT: I THINK THEY WILL BE SOLVED. AS I SAY, WE ARE MAKING PROGRESS ALONG THAT LINE.

QUESTION: CAN YOU EXPLAIN THE IMPORTANCE OF THE (INAUDIBLE) -- COUNTRIES TRYING TO (INAUDIBLE) -- THE

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SOUTHERN FLANK OF NATO AND ON THE OTHER HAND APPLYING AN
ARMS EMBARGO TO TURKEY, ONE OF THE SOUTHERN FLANK
MEMBERS?

THE PRESENT: WE RECOGNIZE TURKEY IS THE KEY-
STONE OF NATO STRENGTH IN THE EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN. WE
ARE VERY MUCH CONCERNED ABOUT THE TEMPORARY EMBARGO THAT
WAS PLACED BY THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES.

BUT I BELIEVE THAT VERY QUICKLY IN THE NEXT WEEK
OR SO YOU WILL SEE A RENEWED COMMITMENT OF OUR OWN
CONGRESS TO AUTHORIZE A MAJOR SALES OF MILITARY EQUIP-
MENT TO TURKEY. I THINK THAT THIS IS AN ACCURATE
PREDICTION.

SO WE ARE MAKING PROGRESS. WE RECOGNIZE THAT WE
STILL HAVE MORE IMPROVEMENT IN THE FUTURE. BUT WE ARE
DETERMINED TO SEE IT MADE.

QUESTION: IS THERE STILL A LINKAGE, MR.
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PRESIDENT, BETWEEN THE CYPRUS QUESTION AND THE ARMS
SUPPLIES?

THE PRESIDENT: MY OWN ANALYSIS IS THAT THE ITEMS
SHOULD BE SEPARATED, THAT PROGRESS ON CYPRUS IS VERY
IMPORTANT TO THE CYPRIOTS, TO TURKEY, TO GREECE, AND TO
THE REST OF THE WORLD, CERTAINLY INCLUDING THE UNITED
STATES. I AM SURE THAT THE TURKISH LEADERS, THE GREEK
LEADERS, THE TURKISH AND GREEK CYPRIOTS AND WE ALL WILL
DO WHAT WE CAN TO BRING ABOUT PEACE IN CYPRUS.

I ALSO THINK THAT THE MILITARY COOPERATION AGREE-
MENT IS IMPORTANT. WE HAVE STRONGLY RECOMMENDED THAT
CONGRESS APPROVE IT. AN IMMEDIATE APPROVAL IS NOT
LIKELY AT THIS POINT. BUT I THINK THAT THAT IS VERY
LIKELY IN THE FUTURE. THAT SHOULD BE A SEPARATE ITEM.

THE THIRD SEPARATE ITEM IS THE SALE OF MILITARY
EQUIPMENT TO TURKEY. I THINK THE CONGRESS WILL VERY
QUICKLY APPROVE THE 175 MILLION DOLLAR AUTHORIZATION.
SO, ALTHOUGH WE ALL WANT ALL THREE TO BE REALIZED IN
OUR MINDS, THEY ARE SEPARATE AND EACH ONE IS UNIQUE
IN ITS DIFFICULTY. EACH ONE IS UNIQUE IN ITS IMPORTANCE
TO PEACE IN THE EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN AND TO WORLD
PEACE.

THANK YOU.

QUESTION: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT.

END (AT 9:32 A.M. LDT)

END TEXT

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